

TALON

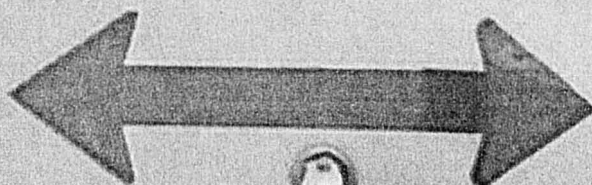
Volume XIX Edition III
October/November

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PARKING

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A Real
Student
Dilemma
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Commuters + Limited Parking Spaces = More Tickets

By Valerie Reed
Commentary



I've been a student at Avila University since the spring of 2009. When I started parking was more available to students, especially commuting students, like myself. However, over the past twelve months, all the parking spots near Dallavis Center have been reserved for "residents" or "employees."

This situation is compounded by the fact that Dallavis Center is surrounded by three residence halls; Thompson, Ridgeway and Carondelet. So what's a commuter student to do when they attend classes in Dallavis? The initial solution was park on "the Oak Street hill".

I have been parking on "the hill" for two years, ever since I, as well as many other commuters, got booted off of the parking lot. This has worked out just fine until October 4, 2010, when I received a parking ticket from the city of Kansas City. I was livid when I noticed that \$40 slip of paper under my windshield wiper. Many other "hill" students were angry as well.

It would have been nice if the city could have at least warned students about this sudden parking law change to keep students from parking on "the hill". Why was there not even a warning before the KCMO Police Department issued tickets? Why didn't Campus Safety e-mail all the students, notifying them that it is no longer legal to park on the hill? Campus safety e-mails students about everything else relating to parking and safety on campus.

The most recent e-mail from Campus Safety warned students about the vehicle break-ins and catalytic converter thefts that have occurred in the lower level parking lot. Hummmm, maybe that's why no one wants to park there, and chooses to park on the surrounding streets!

Peter Kondracki, an Avila student and resident, had this to say after seeing his parking ticket, "Parking at Avila has been bad enough the last two years and now that spots on the street are being ticketed. It's beginning to get ridiculous. The lower parking lot isn't even a safe place to leave my truck anymore. Something needs to be done."

I realize that many students often complain about parking on campus related to the location of spaces, the lack of enough parking spaces, and even the campus tickets they receive. But this situation is wrong and unfair to the students who pay tuition and have no where to park. After all, I thought students were the customers of the university? As such, we deserve better treatment.

It's difficult enough to pay for tuition, fees, and books. Now students are being forced to dig even deeper into their pockets to pay for absurd parking tickets.

If you have received a parking ticket while parking on "the hill," e-mail me at reed156919@avila.edu to let your voice be heard.



Photo by Valerie Reed: As seen from the bottom of the hill, no signs are visible indicating "no parking."



To Park or Not To Park?

By Emily Heid
Guest Commentator



Thursday is my favorite day of the week: last day of school, no job to go to, and a DVR full of wonderful shows to catch up on. Thursday mornings are always relaxing and everything seems to fall into place. My Thursday was perfect...until I entered the Avila Parking lot. As many students have experienced firsthand this semester, parking has become a MAJOR issue. In my previous two years here, I have never seen such anger, frustration, or mayhem because of parking.

"I think the parking has become more difficult this semester. I think it's particularly difficult for commuter students," Linda Strelluf, faculty member in the Communications Department, said. As a commuter student, I agree. For commuters, Dallavis is the black hole of all the building parking lots on campus. It is the most difficult to find a parking spot near Dallavis. I counted only 13 spots available to commuter students along the main drag of Dallavis. Can you guess how many spots are reserved to residents? Too many to count. Last year, about 7/8's of the Dallavis parking lot was made into resident parking. All last year commuter students parked in resident parking if a spot was open because nowhere does a sign state that we are not allowed there too. A green and orange sign warns residents that they are only allowed to park in resident parking, but it says nothing of the kind for anyone else who is not a resident.

I continued to park in any available spot that was not faculty or handicap this semester. Imagine my shock when I found a ticket on my car because I was parked in residential parking! When I approached Campus Safety about the injustice of my ticket, they simply replied "We are cracking down this year". My point still holds true, where does it say other people, whether commuters, visitors, or faculty, cannot park in resident parking? I know I can read and it is not stated anywhere on signs posted.

Apparently, faculty has also found out they are not permitted to park anywhere that

doesn't say faculty. Strelluf told me she "...has her own collection of tickets..." for parking anywhere that doesn't say faculty parking. "The problem for the faculty is, there are tons of faculty places, but you get there and there is a student in it. They are running late for class and can't find a spot, so they park in faculty. Then we are without a spot." Strelluf has made it clear "...that we are all guilty of this and that there are no clean hands in it, but it's out of desperation because there is nowhere to park."

Since I was verbally forbidden to park in resident and only 13 spots are available to non-residents, I resigned myself to parking on Oak Street. Once again students were punished for parking there, without any forewarning from the school, I might add. On Monday October 4th, 2010, KCMO Police Department placed a sign on the lamppost on Oak Street, forbidding any parking on that street. As they returned to their cars at the end of the day, a \$40 ticket awaited them.

What makes this whole thing "so unfair" is that students, whether commuter or resident, pay the same tuition. Yet we are divided into colors of parking tags: green and purple. I thought everyone was supposed to be given equal treatment...after all; we all pay THE SAME TUITION. I repeat WE ALL PAY THE SAME TUITION! So why are residents allowed to park closer to Dallavis than commuters? Why are commuters the only type of student allowed to park over in O'Reilly? I propose we all rip off our parking pass and park wherever is convenient for the time we are parking!

So what is the solution for this problem? "I don't know what the answer is, but I think we need to come together collectively as intellectual individuals and find a solution," stated Strelluf. I propose the school puts together a town hall type meeting for students, faculty, and administration to attend so we can find a solution for this problem by the New Year. If you are just as frustrated as I am, I encourage you please email me your comments (heid184414@avila.edu - put PARKING in the subject line) by November 1st. I plan to go speak with people most directly responsible for parking. This should not be a silent protest, and together we can come to a fair solution.

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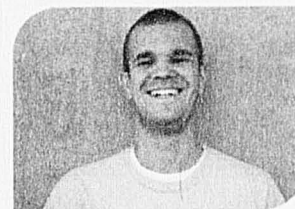
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Dance and Cheer: Nationals Season

By Erin Hopper



Avila's dance and cheer teams have reached an important time in their season: National qualifications. Last year both teams placed high in the national competitions. Will they be able to surpass their previous performance ranks?

The first step in the team's journey to Nationals is the taping of their qualifying routines. In order to qualify for nationals the teams have to send in a qualifying tape. This tape is viewed and judged. Based on judging, teams are then ranked. The top two teams get a full paid bid to nationals if they participated in Dance and Cheer camp over the summer.

The teams put in hours of practice to choreography, memorize, and perfect their routines. Learning the routine is not the only hard part to qualifying for Nationals.

"We are working on learning the taping process. We have a great amount of freshman that are just learning how to manage school and cheer so it is all a learning process," said Brittany Stewart, Avila Head Cheerleading Coach. "There is no way to prepare them for taping it is a whole different experience. You get them ready by jumping in headfirst. We start working in the summer on making everyone use the same technique and doing the same thing every time."

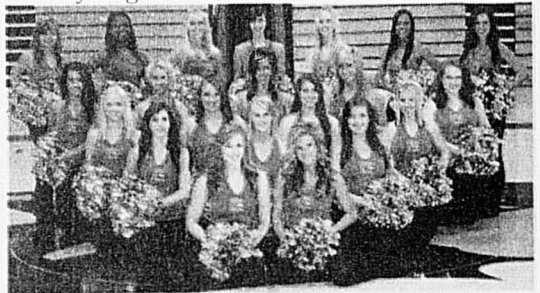
One of the hardest things about college dance and cheer is that everyone and every move have to be uniform. If there is one arm out of place or one girl one second late the team's final score can suffer. In the UDA competition the competitors are fierce and bring their best every year. This qualifying tape sets the stage for nationals and allows the teams to scope out the competition.

"I love qualifier! I think this whole experience is amazing and a major learning process. I would love to place first, but I am only a freshman and I am not sure how this whole process works. I don't know what we placed last year but I do know we are going

to push ourselves to be in the top," said Rosemary Virgoni, an Avila freshman and Glitter Girl team member.

No matter how much work is put into the routine and taping, the results are always unpredictable.

"I have no idea where the other teams are skill wise. I never know what the judges are looking for. We will do the best we can and then focus on nationals! I feel all that qualifier does is let you know where you stand at that point not where you will place when you get to nationals," said Stewart.



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**America's
Drive-In**



Ahoy Avila!

By Jessica Morrow
Guest Columnist



Homecoming at Avila means fun, food, and of course Eagle football and this year was no different. A week long celebration was coordinated and included activities like airbrush tattoos, inflatable games, and finally the Eagle Madness pep rally!

Eagle Madness was held on Friday evening. The goal: to get all of the students involved and excited about the football game against the Benedictine Ravens on Saturday, October 9. The rally provided entertainment from the Avila Cheer and Dance teams, and a hired performer.

The ladies put together a short routine to perform for the students. The Glitter Girls also performed their highly anticipated co-ed dance. The ladies chose a male athlete and choreographed a dance with them. It was definitely a crowd favorite, as always.

Along with the great performances, games and prizes were provided to students by different campus organizations. The results of the annual banner competition were announced and this year's winner was Criminology! Avila is about more than just fun and games, Avila is also involved in the community. Eagle Madness hosted a friendly competition between the sports teams. The teams were assigned to collect canned foods from their athletes to donate to Harvesters and some of them got creative with their pirate theme can design.

The conclusion of homecoming week was the Eagles football game on Saturday against Benedictine. There was a buzz of excitement in the air before the game with the alumni in the stands and a barbecue lunch provided. The team put forth good effort, but in the end fell a short and ended with a loss; the final score was 47-7. The team now has a record of 2-4, thanks to October 16's win against Graceland. Make sure to come support your Eagles at their next home game on October 23rd against William Jewell.



Photo by Sarah Vallez: AU football team taking the field!

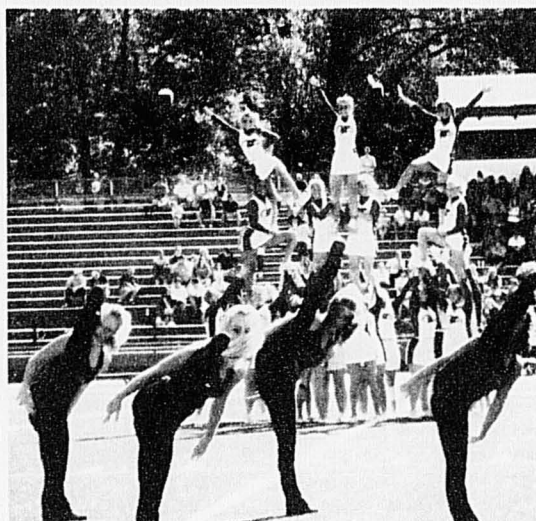


Photo by Sarah Vallez: Avila Cheer and Dance team doing their halftime show.



Debt Free U

By Talor Carr



College: a time to meet new people and figure out what to do in life. It's the best time of our lives; or so they say. It's also a time that puts people in thousands of dollars in debt to student loans.

Students without scholarships, financial aid, or family aid finish school with a large chunk of debt. According to Zac Bissonnette, author of the book Debt Free U, there is a way to go to college without using a student loan or mooching off your parents.

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Student Review: "The Social Network"

By James Chapman

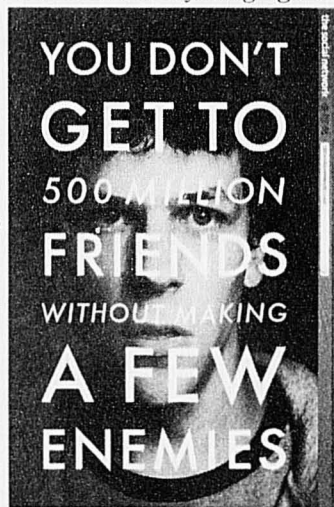


"The Social Network" took a new angle to film production. It was designed to capture a relevant and current topic that has taken over the minds of people of all ages: Facebook.

Facebook has socially monopolized the internet, but its success did not come easy. "The Social Network" uncovered the history of Facebook and exposed that its story is nowhere near a fairytale. Facebook was created on deceit, bitterness, power, and most of all betrayal. At least that is what the movie had expressed in its intention to model, Co-Founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, as a very lonely and insecure person.

The reason I enjoyed this movie so much is because of its simplicity. To create reality in a movie is tough for any director to accomplish, but what this movie offers is the ability to get a deeper look into business and the lifestyle to be lead at a young age. It also examines the people who will come into your life because of the fame and money, and the people who will always be there during success or failure.

I liked every part of "The Social Network". The movie was filled with humor and plenty of facts that would blow your mind. I recommend seeing this film, whether you're a fan of Facebook or not, this film might change your view. "The Social Network" will be considered for film of the year, no doubt. And in my eyes, deserves the award.



In Bissonnette's book he describes not his own personal experience about how he got through college without the help of his parents, or taking out loans Debt Free U is a revolutionary book that could possibly help future and current college students become debt free. Bissonnette not only shares his personal accounts of surviving college, but he shares his professional knowledge. Currently, Bissonnette is a personal finance expert at Daily Finance, AND is also attending his senior year at the University of Massachusetts.

Debt Free U is full of information on what students can do to avoid using loans, helpful facts for parents, and aid for choosing the right school. Also discussed are college rankings. Bissonnette informs students that college rankings are "useless," because where a student attends school is not important, so long as you hold a diploma. The degree is what matters in the end.

Can you go to college without paying student loans or scholarships? Zac Bissonnette is living proof that it's possible. His book can save students from being \$100,000 in debt after school. Check out Debt Free U.

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